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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-14 /084 W

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R 302029Z MAY 80
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5549

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 4456

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒ Release) (☐ Excise) (☐ Deny)

Exemption(s):

Declassify: (☐ In Part) (☒ In Full)

(☐ Classify as) (☐ Extend as) (☐ Downgrade to)
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

E.O. 12065: GDS 5/30/86 (FRIEDMAN, TOWNSEND B.) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJ: [REDACTED] PRESUMED DEATH WHILE IN CUSTODY

1. [REDACTED] WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THE FOLLOWING STORY BY A
RELIABLE HUMAN RIGHTS SOURCE.

2. [REDACTED] ON MAY 22 IN THE BUENOS AIRES SUBURB OF LOMAS AT
ABOUT 5AM MEN IDENTIFYING HNG THEMSELVES AS FEDERAL POLICE
OFFICERS ARRESTED FRANCISCO MILER, A 29 YEAR OLD MUNICIPAL
INSPECTOR, AND HIS BROTHER, JUAN MILER, A SHOP KEEPER.
ACCORDING TO JUAN, WHO IS THE ULTIMATE SOURCE OF THIS REPORT,
THE TWO WERE DRIVEN OFF IN SEPARATE CARS WITH THEIR HEADS
COVERED. JUAN WHO WAS ABLE TO LIFT HIS HOOD ENOUGH TO SEE
ALLEGES THAT THE CARS DROVE THEM TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE
FIRST ARMY COMMAND IN BUENOS AIRES. ON THE WAY THERE HIS
CAPTORS TOLD JUAN THAT "YOU ARE NOT GOING TO HAVE ANY PROB-
LEM. THEY ARE GOING TO LET YOU GO. BUT YOUR BROTHER IS
SCREWED. BUT THEY ARE GOING TO LET HIM GO TOO."

3. [REDACTED] ON ARRIVAL AT THE CAR'S DESTINATION, JUAN SAYS
HE WAS QUESTIONED INTENSIVELY BUT WAS NEVER TORTURED.
HIS CAPTORS' INTEREST CENTERED ON WHERE HIS BROTHER HAD
GOTTEN THE MONEY FOR A SMALL HOUSE HE WAS BUILDING.
THE QUESTIONING CONTINUED FOR SEVERAL HOURS AND THEN
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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STOPPED. JUAN WAS THEN TAKEN TO SAN TELMO, A NEIGHBOR-
HOOD IN THE CAPITAL AND RELEASED AT ABOUT 10AM MAY 22.

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4. [REDACTED] JUAN DID NOT SEE FRANCISCO WHILE IN CAPTIVITY. FRANCISCO'S BODY, WITHOUT A MARK OR WOUND ON IT, WAS FOUND MAY 23 IN THE BUENOS AIRES SUBURB OF SAN ISIDRO. NO AUTOPSY WAS DONE, BUT THE FAMILY BELIEVES THAT FRANCISCO DIED OF A HEART SEIZURE WHILE IN CUSTODY. DESPITE THE LACK OF MARKS ON HIS BODY THEY BELIEVE THAT THE SEIZURE WAS BROUGHT ON BY TORTURE.

5. [REDACTED] COMMENT: AT THIS POINT WE ASSUME THAT FRANCISCO DIED WHILE IN GOA CUSTODY, THOUGH THE PLACE AND CAUSE OF HIS DEATH CAN BE THE SUBJECT OF ENDLESS CONJECTURE. WHETHER THE ARRESTING AUTHORITIES MEANT TO DISAPPEAR HIM, ARREST HIM, OR MERELY QUESTION HIM IS UNKNOWN.

6. [REDACTED] THE FAMILY CLAIMS THAT FRANCISCO, WHO HAD BEEN IN THE PERONIST YOUTH UNTIL 1973, HAD ABANDONED POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. THE FAMILY REPORTEDLY BELIEVES THAT HE WAS ARRESTED BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN IN REGULAR CONTACT, BY MAIL, WITH AN EXILED MONTONERO LIVING IN SWITZERLAND. THEY SPECULATE THAT THE ARMY BELIEVED THAT FRANCISCO WAS RECEIVING MONEY FROM THE MONTONEROS TO FINANCE THEIR TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN ARGENTINA AND MAY HAVE USED SOME OF THOSE FUNDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF HIS HOME.
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